

CITY OF CALISTOGA

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August 18, 2009

The Honorable Francisca P. Tisher
The Honorable Raymond A. Guadagni
Presiding Judges
Superior Court of the State of California
County of Napa
825 Brown Street
Napa, CA 94559

FILED

AUG 26 2009

Clerk of the Napa Superior Court
By: C. Brennan
Deputy

Re: Calistoga Police Department's Response to Napa County Grand Jury
2008-2009 Final Report on Napa Valley Gangs.

Dear Judges Tisher and Guadagni:

The City of Calistoga appreciates the work of the Grand Jury and the time and effort that went into the making of this report. We herein submit our responses as requested to Napa County Grand Jury 2008-2009 Final Report on Napa Valley Gangs, Recommendations 1, 2, 6 and 7.

Recommendation 1:

Establishment of a new County-wide multijurisdictional gang task force with a full-time coordinator, strike team and representatives from local law enforcement jurisdictions, prevention, intervention agencies, school administrations and the community.

Response:

The Calistoga Police Department is committed to working with other agencies to address Napa Valley Gangs. Current cooperation includes the Gang Violence Suppression Grant group, the Gang Task Force, and School/Law meetings. The implementation of a coordinated multijurisdictional effort would be another step towards gang and violence reduction and would be supported by the Calistoga Police Department.

Recommendation 2:

Implement a county-wide gang database and tracking system accessible by all law enforcement agencies and school officials.

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Response:

There currently exists a comprehensive law enforcement database for identifying and tracking known gang members called Cal-Gang. Cal-Gang is a DOJ database service that each law enforcement agency can access to search and input individuals. It is a web based program that can be used no matter what local records program an agency is running. Any data entered into Cal-Gang must meet DOJ standards so the users of the program know the data is reliable. Currently, confidentiality of records and juvenile offender information prohibits sharing offender or suspect information with non-law enforcement agencies. Prior to the sharing of any law enforcement data, an approved confidentiality agreement would have to be executed.

Recommendation 6:

Consider a County-wide curfew for those under the age of eighteen as a law enforcement tool.

Response:

The use of curfew as a tool to combat gang activity is problematic in Calistoga. Calistoga has a curfew ordinance on the books and the department has enforced that order as necessary. Since a curfew violation is a status offense, a juvenile in violation of the curfew is not arrested for the offense but must be detained until a parent or other responsible adult can pick them up. This detention of a juvenile requires an appropriate place and personnel to monitor the juvenile. The detention center should be proactive instead of punitive, offering personnel the opportunity to counsel the juvenile. Calistoga does not currently have such a facility in place or the immediate means to do so.

Recommendation 7:

Consider the use of injunctions as a law enforcement tool against gang members.

Response:

The City of Calistoga has no specific area targeted as a headquarters or even hang-out for a specific gang. It would not be productive to use an injunction in these circumstances.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Mills
Chief of Police

cc: Grand Jury File